

May 19, 2009

Dear Future Calculus Student,

As we look ahead to next school year, I would like you to take a moment and consider a few things.

First, students who work hard, attend class, take notes and participate in class will succeed in class and on the A.P. exam. You are a good student and know already what it takes to do well in class. However, if you choose to be lazy, copy work or attempt to cheat, you will find that this course will not be very beneficial to you. This is not an easy course, but it is advantageous to anyone who plans to attend college.

AP calculus translates as calculus 1 at a four year university. Calculus 1 is a five credit hour class (and at \$125.91 per credit hour) can cost \$629.55. Earning credit for this course can mean a substantial savings and may also advance your college career at a faster pace. Additionally, most scholarships only pay for 120 credit hours but many universities require 135 credits for graduation. Earning an AP credit is an exceptional value; one that must be taken seriously.

Scoring a 3 is the usual minimum score that colleges will accept for credit. However, a score of 3 is earned by answering approximately 42% of the questions correct. Yes, the test is difficult, but with your hard work, you should be able to score well.

If you are going to be in the class, you need to be able to dedicate 100% of your effort in the classroom and plan on completing the homework when assigned. If you don't do the homework, you will not be able to participate in class discussions nor will you be able to ask questions. All chapter tests will take two days to complete (1 day for multiple choice questions, 1 day for free response questions). We will also spend a day on test corrections. The goal of this class is for you to learn the material, not fail every test.

Your grade in this class will consist of homework, projects, group assignments and tests. This is different from college where your grade is usually comprised of tests.

I will work with any student to help them to succeed in the class, but I will only work as hard as that student is trying. I will plan one afternoon a week for an extra review session for those who wish to attend.

If you are planning on buying a new graphing calculator the **TI-Nspire CAS** addition is recommended for all calculus and physics classes in college. It is truly helpful on the calculator portions of the AP Exam. I have a class set of TI-Nspire's that we will use in class, but the CAS edition does much more.

Also, if funds are not available for next year, there will be a \$15 (approximate) lab fee for the course to buy your AP review study book. This will be a book that you can write in and keep.

If you have any questions, please either come by and see me before the end of the year in Portable #9, or e-mail me any time during the summer. Kimberly.Crandall@polk-fl.net or look it up on the Lake Region website.

I look forward to having you in my class next year. I would love to have all 43 of you that are eligible and make it the LARGEST group of Calculus students Lake Region has ever had!!

Mrs. Crandall